

**ACTIVITY:** Playing

**CASE:** [GSAF 2007.04.01](#)

**DATE:** Sunday April 1, 2007

**LOCATION:** The incident took place in the Atlantic Ocean at the Crawford Beach Ramp in New Smyrna Beach, Volusia County, Florida, USA.

29°N, 81°W

**NAME:** Jack LoMedico

**DESCRIPTION:** He is a seven-year-old male.



*Jack LoMedico*

## **BACKGROUND**

**WEATHER:** At the time of the incident there were 15- to 20-knot South-Southeast winds with gusts to 25 knots. By 14h02 at the wind direction had shifted; wind direction was South at 15 mph [24.1 km/h] with gusts to 20.7 mph [33.3 km/h]. There were scattered clouds, the air temperature was 77°F [25°C], dew point 57.2°F [14°C], humidity 50%, sea level pressure 30.17 in [1021.6 hPa] and visibility was 10 miles [16.1 km].

**MOON PHASE:** Full moon, 100% of the moon's visible disk was illuminated.

**SEA CONDITIONS:** The sea was very-choppy, turbulent and murky. Waves were two to three feet in height and the sea surface temperature was 69°F.

**ENVIRONMENT:** April is the month in which shark bites start to pick up, said Captain Scott Petersohn. He noted that last April there were eight shark bites in the county. Most of them, said Captain Petersohn, happen when a shark mistakes a human for food. "They'll swim up, bite, realize you're just as big as they are – or bigger – and swim away." He said today's bite happened really as a "luck of the draw. It was kind of a matter of being at the wrong place at the wrong time."

**DEPTH OF WATER:** "Shallow"

**TIME:** 13h05

**NARRATIVE:** Jack was playing on a sandbar with his younger brother, Andrew, when he was bitten by the shark. "A shark came and bit me on my leg," said Jack. "The first time, it didn't feel so bad. Second time, I'm like, 'I just got bit by a shark!' I just looked at my leg and said, 'Who has that many teeth – shark.'" "Until we pulled him out of water, we couldn't tell what happened," said his mother. "I was thrilled all the toes were there. But there was lots of blood and I'm with baby, screaming," she said. Jack's little brother, Andrew, saw the whole thing. "He was scared and he was crying after I got bit," Jack said. "He got bit by a shark and I was crying because I was so sad," Andrew said. This was the first shark bite of the year in Volusia County.

**INJURY:** There were two large crescent-shaped lacerations with 14 to 16 puncture wounds on the boy's right calf.

**FIRST AID / TREATMENT:** The boy's family called for help and Jack was transported by EVAC ambulance to Bert Fish Memorial Hospital in New Smyrna Beach where his injuries were repaired with 60 sutures. He is expected to make a full recovery.

**SPECIES:** Beach Patrol said that it was likely a spinner shark that bit Jack. "(The shark) was kind of the size of me," reported Jack.

**SOURCES:** WESH 2, <http://www.wesh.com/news/11481867/detail.html>; Central Florida News, [http://www.cfnews13.com/News/Local/2007/4/1/shark\\_bite.html](http://www.cfnews13.com/News/Local/2007/4/1/shark_bite.html); Orlando Sentinel,

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April 1, 2007, <http://www.orlandosentinel.com/news/orl-bk-sharkbite0401,0,980636.story?coll=orl-news-headlines>; BayNews9, baynews9.com; Local 6 News.

**CASE INVESTIGATOR:** Captain Scott Petersohn, GSAF

